

Dear Legislators,

Connecticut's five Centers for Independent Living (CILs) provide crucial services to people with ALL types of disAbilities, of ALL ages and to ALL areas of the state. CILs are staffed and managed largely by people with disAbilities and the mission of the CIL's is to educate & empower others with disAbilities to achieve their goals of self-sufficiency and autonomy, which results in state savings through reduced reliance on state and/or federal entitlement programs.

The Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities relies on these vital Organizations as resources for the Citizens of Danbury and quite often refers our Citizens with disAbilities to the CIL as well as other State Agencies to provide help and support to those who usually have nowhere else to turn. To eliminate or cut funding to these Organizations could mean the difference of having the ability to provide for oneself or hoping for a handout which may never come. To eliminate or cut funding to these Organizations could mean the difference of having a job and being a tax payer or not having a job and being a tax burden. To eliminate or cut funding to these Organizations could mean the difference of having a roof over your head or living on the street.

Please do whatever is necessary to ensure that full funding is restored to the Connecticut, State Centers for Independent Living from the Department of Rehabilitation (DORS), in the Governor's proposed 2016/2017 biennial state budget.

Yours truly,

Frances Ryan

Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities